

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2552

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, RO

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO JORDAN

REF: A) AMMAN 2467 B) AMMAN 2503

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT AND MRS. CEAUSESCU GIVEN IMPRESSIVE RECEPTION DURING FOUR-DAY STAY IN AMMAN. OCCASION HIGHLY PUBLICIZED AS FIRST VISIT OF SOCIALIST BLOC LEADER TO JORDAN. PRINCIPAL RESULTS WERE AGREEMENTS REACHED FOR SOME INCREASE IN JORDANIAN PHOSPHATE EXPORTS TO ROMANIA, AND FOR ROMANIAN-JORDANIAN COOPERATION IN OIL EXPLORATIONS AND POSSIBLE OIL REFINERY CONSTRUCTION IN JORDAN. ROMANIA OFFERED NO AID TO JORDAN AND APPEARED INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN PROMOTING TRADE AND COMMERCE. ROMANIANS MOUNTED ENERGETIC DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE VIA PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WHICH JORDANIANS ACCEPTED WITH AMUSED GOOD GRACE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT AND MRS. CEAUSESCU GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT DURING APRIL 14-17 VISIT TO AMMAN. EVENTS, IN ADDITION TO CEREMONIAL BANQUETS, INCLUDED EXCHANGE OF JORDANIAN AND ROMANIAN

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DECORATIONS, PRESENTATION OF KEY OF CAPITAL BY MAYOR OF AMMAN

(WITH NUMEROUS REFERENCES TO KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO BUCHAREST LAST YEAR), EXCURSIONS TO ROMAN RUINS OF JERASH (ESCORTED BY KING) AND TO PETRA, AND TO SITE OF ROMPETROL ENTERPRISE, PIPELINE BEING BUILT BY ROMANIAN TECHNICIANS.

3. DISCUSSIONS INVOLVED BOTH OFFICIAL TALKS BETWEEN DELEGATIONS AND PRIVATE TALKS BETWEEN HEADS OF STATE. ROMANIAN DELEGATION CONCLUDED FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS GHEORGHE OPREA, FORMER MIN. GEORGE MACOVESCU; MIN. HEALTH RADO BAWUN (TRANSLIT); PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR VASIL BONDYAN AND CONSTANTIN MIKA; ROMANIAN AMB. TO JORDAN VASILE GINDILA; AND DEPMIN FOREIGN TRADE CONSTANTIN STANCIU. SIMILARLY HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION REPRESENTED JORDANIAN SIDE: PM ZAYD RIFAI; CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT MUDHAR BADRAN; MIN. DEFENSE DHUQAN HINDAWI; MIN. AGRICULTURE RAJA'I MU'ASHIR; PRESIDENT NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL HANNA 'AWDAH; AND JORDANIAN AMB. TO ROMANIA HANI KHASAWNEH.

4. OCCASION HIGHLY PUBLICIZED AS FIRST VISIT OF SOCIALIST BLOC LEADER TO JORDAN, AND SOLID AGREEMENTS RESULTING FROM TRIP TOUTED. JORDANIAN PRESS AND RADIO (FBIS JN 151400 AND JN 162216) REPORTED THAT TWO LEADERS AGREED TO ESTABLISH JOINT ROMANIAN-JORDANIAN CORPORATION "TO STUDY COOPERATION...INT THE FIELD OF OIL EXPLORATION IN JORDAN". AGREEMENT ALSO REACHED "TO ESTABLISH A NEW OIL REFINERY IN THE SOUTH". TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED "TO RATIFY AND ENFORCE THE TECHNICAL AND TRADE AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED BETWEEN THEM IN 1968" AND THAT JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN AMMAN WITH TWO MONTHS TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF ABOVE AGREEMENTS. ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS INCLUDE INCREASED EXPORT OF JORDANIAN PHOSPHATES TO ROMANIA, ROMANIA'S PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN JORDAN, AND DRAFTING OF AGREEMENT FOR AIR TRANSPORT BETWEEN AMMAN AND BUCHAREST. ROMANIA WILL ALSO STUDY JORDANIAN REQUEST TO ESTABLISH VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOLS IN COMPLEMENT JORDANIAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

5. OUR JORDANIAN CONTACTS SAID MAJOR ROMANIAN INTEREST WAS IN TRADE AGREEMENT FOR INCREASE IN JORDANIAN PHOSPHATES. HOWEVER, JORDAN DECLINED TO GO AS FAR AS ROMANIANS WANTED IN INCREASING PRODUCTION BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES OVER EFFECT OF IMMINENT SUEZ CANAL OPENING ON FUTURE DEMAND FOR AND PRICE OF JORDANIAN PHOSPHATES. CONFIDENTIAL

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(GOJ CLAIMS SUEZ OPENING WILL DOUBLE JORDANIAN PHOSPHATE EXPORTS). GOJ AND ROMANIA ALSO CONCLUDED CULTURAL AND EDUCATION EXCHANGE, ALTHOUGH DETAILS STILL UNKNOWN. GOJ FORMER UNDERSECRETARY HASSAN IBRAHIM TOLD US ROMANIA OFFERED NO AID TO JORDAN AND IN BILATERAL TERMS APPEARED MAINLY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING TRADE AND COMMERCE.

6. GOJ SEEMS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY ENERGETIC ROMANIAN DIPLOMATIC

OFFENSIVE DURING VISIT. GOJ FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY INFORMED US THAT ROMANIANS CAME ARMED WITH BRIEFCASE FULL OF PROPOSED AGREEMENTS, SOME QUITE TRIVIAL. IBRAHIM SAID ROMANIANS PRESSED FOR LENGTHY "SOLEMN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" WHICH OGJ MANAGED TO SHORTEN (FROM 24 TO 10 PAGES) ON GROUNDS THAT MOST "PRINCIPLES" ALREADY A PART OF RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL LAW. (DECLARATION WILL BE BROADCAST IN AMMAN AND BUCHAREST ON APRIL 17). ALSO, BECAUSE JORDAN IS NOT A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL POWER OR AN OIL EXPORTER. GOJ WAS UNPREPARED TO MAKE PUBLIC DECLARATIONS IN BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF THIRD WORLD POSITIONS ON RAW MATERIALS AND PETROLEUM ISSUES, ALTHOUGH GOJ DID NOT DISAGREE WITH SUBSTANCE OF ROMANIAN POSITIONS. ROMANIANS ALSO WERE INTERESTED IN INSURING FOLLOW-THROUGH ON VISIT AND, TO THAT END, MANAGED TO ACTIVATE A "JOINT COMMISSION" STIPULATED IN AN EARLIER GOJ-ROMANIAN AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL MEET IN TWO MONTHS.

7. PRIME MINISTER RIFAI TOLD US THAT PRINCIPALECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WERE FOR A) ROMANIAN SEISMIC ASSISTANCE IN OIL PROSPECTING, AND B) AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR ROMANIAN ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING A REFINERY IN JORDAN APPARENTLY IN RETURN FOR JORDANIAN PROVISION OF JORDANIAN PHOSPHATES, UNDER SOME SORT OF BARTER ARRANGEMENTS,

8. IN PRESS CONF (FBIS JN 162053) PRECEDING SIGNING OF JOINT STATEMENT EMBODYING ABOVE-MENTIONED AGREEMENTS, CEAUSESCU REFERRED TO PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN HIMSELF AND KING HUSSEIN AND TO CONTINUATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN OIL AND MINING. STRESSED NEED FOR EARLY CONVOCATION OF EXPANDED GENEVA CONF, WITH ROMANIA EXERTING ALL EFFORTS TO HELP FIND SOLUTION. WECOMED SADAT'S OPENING CANAL AS STEP TOWARD ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE ATMOSPHERE FOR PEACE.

9. COMMENT: DESPITE FANFARE OF VISIT AND SIGNING OF NUMEROUS
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AGREEMENTS, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE VISIT PRODUCED ANY DRAMATIC RESULTS. IT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE ADVANCES REGARDING POSITIONS ON MIDEAST. IF ANYTHING, HEAVY AND ENTHUSIASTIC CEAUSESCU PUBLIC EMPHASIS INITIALLY ON NEED FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE WAS EMBARRASSMENT TO OGJ, WHICH ONLY RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED DECISION OF RABAT SUMMIT AND HARDLY WISHES TO SERVE AS PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENT FOR THE PLO OR A PALESTINIAN STATE. WHILE DETAILS OF AGREEMENTS, OR THE JOINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES NOT YET ANNOUNCED, ROMANIANS APPEARED TO GET LESS HARD ECONOMIC COOPERATION THAN THEY WANTED (E.G., IN PHOSPHATES) BUT DID ACHIEVE SOME INCREASE IN CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL RELATIONS. IN GENERAL, KING HUSSEIN AND GOJ PROVIDED GRACIOUS (BUT BY NO MEANS FULSOME) RECEPTION FOR ROMANIANS. JORDANIANS ALSO TOOK CARE TO AVOID CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, AND RESPONDED TO THIS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING ENCOUNTER WITH HARD-SELL ROMANIAN SOCIALIST DIPLOMACY WITH HUMOR AND GOOD GRACE.

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